

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. Objections to Fig. 2 of the drawings are lifted in view of the submitted replacement drawings.

Claim Objections

2. Objections to claims 1-12 are lifted in view of the amended claims.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Elliott Malamud on 3/16/2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

3. In the claims:
4. Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A voltage block device, configured for use in an electrostatic coating system in which a negative electric potential is applied to a coating material supplied from a coating material source to a spray device configured to spray the coating material to a coating object to which a positive electric potential is applied, the voltage block device configured to prevent the negative electric potential from transferred to the coating material source, comprising:

a switching device including a linear slider which is selectively slidable between first and second positions, an inlet port in fluidic communication with the coating material source, and an outlet port in fluidic communication with the spray device;

a reservoir including first and second chambers;

the inlet and outlet ports in fluidic communication with the first and second chambers, respectively, when the slider is at the first position; and

the inlet and outlet ports in fluidic communication with the second and first chambers, respectively~ when the slider is at the second position.

5. Claim 7. (Currently Amended) An electrostatic coating system, comprising: a coating material source; a spray device, applied with a negative electric potential, the spray device configured to spray the coating material from the coating material source to a coating object, applied with a positive electric potential; and

a voltage block device, configured to prevent the negative electric potential from being transferred to the coating material source:

the voltage block device, comprising:

a switching device including a linear slider which is selectively slidable between first and second positions, an inlet port in fluidic communication with the coating material source, and an outlet port in fluidic communication with the spray device;

a reservoir including first and second chambers;

wherein the inlet and outlet ports fluidly communicate with the first and second chambers, respectively, when the slider is at the first position; and

the inlet and outlet ports fluidly communicate with the second and first chambers, respectively when the slider is at the second position.

6. Claim 15: a switching device including a linear slider which is selectively slidable between first and second positions, an inlet port fluidly communicated with the coating material source, and an outlet port fluidly communicated with the spray device;

a reservoir comprising a cylinder and a double headed piston slidable within the cylinder so that an inner wall of the cylinder and ends of the double headed piston define first and second chambers in the cylinder, the cylinder having two and only two fluid communicating ports, the two-and only two fluid communicating ports consisting of a first port providing access to/from the first chamber at one end of the cylinder and a second port providing access to/from the second chamber at the other end of the cylinder;

the inlet and outlet ports being fluidly communicated with the first and second chambers, respectively, when the slider is at the first position; and the inlet and outlet ports being fluidly communicated with the second and first chambers, respectively, when the slider is at the second position.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 1-15 allowed.

8. Regarding claims 1-15, the closest prior art is prior art is Allen (US Patent No. 5725150), which describes a voltage block device that make use of four-way switching device in which the inlet and outlet ports are in communication with the first and second chambers of a double- headed piston, respectively, when the switch is in a first position,

and the inlet and outlet ports are in communication with the second and first chambers, respectively, when the switch is in a second position. However, Allen relies upon a rotating four-way valve as a selective switch instead of the linear slider taught by the applicant.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Albert Hilton whose telephone number is (571)-270-5519. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Parviz Hassanzadeh can be reached on (571)-272-1435. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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